CURIOUS ENQUIRIES —— 1688

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CURIOUS ENQUIRIES.

Charles BEING SIX Walmesley

Brief Discourses,

VIZ.

I. *Of the Longitude.*
II. *The Tricks of Astrological Quacks.*
III. *Of the Depth of the Sea.*
IV. *Of Tobacco.*
V. *Of* Europes *being too full of People.*
VI. *The various Opinions concerning the* Time *of Keeping the Sabbath.*

Semper Ego Auditor tantum: Nunquamne Reponam? Juven.

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TO THE

READER.

WHen Men write, let it be on whatsoever Subject, the Common Way is, to have Recourse to a Multitude of Old Authors, and there to pick out some Select Sentences for their Purpose, and so Methodically to dispose of them, by entailing one Old Saying upon another; and if they will not exactly fit, then Impertinently to raise some Discourse of their own on the next Sentence they have mind to Hale in, and so

so confidently to Quote it, Book and Page, for the Proof of the same. These streams of Writings please such Readers, as have never before Drank at the Fountains; and generally as if it was all the Writers own, pass with Approbation, or Dispraise, according to his Ingenuity in contriving the Method. But here, Reader, in these following Sheets, you will find what is wholly New, and nothing more; they are a sort of Essays, *which, besides the putting some abler Pen upon the bringing of them to Perfection, may (for ought I know) do some good in the World. As for Instance, That of the Depth of the* Sea, *wherein I have laid down a Contrivance to Sound it in the deepest Place. I am not so Self-conceited to say Positively, that that Way will come in Use: But it is highly Probable it may, because*

becauſe at preſent the Seamen have no manner of Contrivance to find the Bottom. And any Man that knoweth any thing of ſuch Matters, cannot be Ignorant how highly Uſeful ſuch an Experiment would prove to be. As for that Diſcourſe with the Aſtrologer, *I deride no Man therein, my meaning in the Writing of it was, to perſuade Poor, Honeſt, deluded People, rather to truſt in* God Almighty, *than in the Words of an* Ignorant Star-Gazer, *which I know too many do; and that there are ſuch Men here in* London, *Hundreds that have been Cheated by them, if they were not aſhamed to lay open their Follies, would Witneſs for me: And I cannot chuſe but ſay, it is a Thouſand pities ſuch an* Excellent Art *ſhould be abuſed by ſuch* Ignorant Pretenders *to it. In the other* Enquiries *too, I hope you*

may

may find something that may please you, however seeing all's New, I will not go the old way of Begging your liking of it: But flatly Conclude, If you like it, Read it; if not, lay it down again, and so

Farewel.

CURIOUS

CURIOUS ENQUIRIES.

CONCERNING THE LONGITUDE.

MAny Men have had many Whimſeys about this Longitude, and ſuch indeed they have only proved: I have read formerly in ſome Old (I have forgot now what) Book, That if you fill a Glaſs of Water full to the Brim, and watch the time of the New, or Full Moon, the Water of it ſelf at that very inſtant of time, would run over. Well, thinks I, by this at leaſt we can diſcover our Longitude at Sea twice a Month; and very probably may give a good gueſs at it daily, by obſerving the Increaſe and Decreaſe of the Water, and allowing for the Condenſation and Rarefaction of the Air, obſerved by a Thermometer; but when I tried at ſeveral Full Moons, I never obſerved the Water to ſtir; ſo then I concluded that

to be falſe. Afterwards, I conſidered with my ſelf, that the Moon, the ſwifteſt of all the Planets, making Revolution round the Earth in Twenty nine Days, might diſcover to us by her daily departure from the Sun, or ſome fixed Star, by Obſervation, how much we had Increaſed, or Diminiſhed, her true Departure, which difference would be our Longitude; but this way is too Minute, unleſs we had Inſtruments that would obſerve an Altitude to a minute or leſs: But then I thought that the Moon very often Eclipſes ſome Star or other, and if the true time of theſe Eclipſes were exactly Calculated with the beginning and ending of them, by an able Aſtronomer for the Meridian of *London*, at Sea we might by the Stars find the time of Night nigh enough to diſcover our Longitude indifferently well thereby; but here's the Caſe, when the Moon is any thing nigh the Full either before or after, her Light obſcures the light of the Star ſhe approaches too, ſo that you cannot ſee it, unleſs it be a Star of the firſt or ſecond Magnitude; but whether this may be holpen with Glaſſes or not, I cannot tell, I leave it to be judged on by Wiſer men.

Sir *Kenelm Digby* in his Diſcourſe of the Sympathetick Powder, tells us how he made Mr. *Howel* ſtart, upon his putting a Bloody Garter, with which Mr. *Howel*'s wounded Hand had been bound up withal, into a Baſon of Water mixed with that Powder: If ſuch a ſtarting could be made to any Inferiour Creature at a great diſtance, and by often doing it, it would not in two or three months loſe its power, we might at Sea with great Eaſe and Pleaſure know when the Sun was upon the Meridian at *London*, or any other appointed time; and conſequently by the difference of Time, the difference of Longitude. Fye! ſays one, or other, you would not ſure put a Dog to the miſery of having always a Wound about him to ſerve you, would you? Why not as well as to keep a Dog two or three days together ſtarving, that he may give his Maſter an hour or two's Pleaſure the better after it. Or for a Seaman to put out his right Eye to ſerve the Merchant: As before

before the Back-Quadrants were Invented, when the Foreſtaffe was moſt in uſe, there was not one Old Maſter of a Ship amongſt Twenty, but what was Blind in one Eye by daily ſtaring in the Sun to find his Way.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ENQUIRER AND AN ASTROLOGER.

I Hope no Learned Artiſt in the Noble Science of Aſtrology, will be offended if I tell an Innocent, Harmleſs Story (not much varying from the Truth) of an Impudent, Illiterate Intruder into it; for it's well known, the Nation ſwarms with this ſort of Caterpillers. Not long ſince, walking out to take the Air, near the Fields, I ſaw a Paper hanging up at a Door, with this Superſcription on it:

Here Liveth——— Studient in Aſtrology and Phyſick, who by the Grace of God, Reſolveth all manner of Queſtions per-

taining to that Noble and Sublime Art: He also Calculateth Nativities, and Cureth all manner of Diseases in the Bodies of Men, Women, and Children. Here is also Orum Potable, *and* Elixar Salutis *to be Sold.*——————

I happened to know the Name, for which I have left a Blank here, and the false Spelling confirming me, that it was the same Person I formerly knew, I went in to see what Trade he drove, and found him in his Chamber reading a little Book: After the usual How-d'ye's were over, thus we began our Discourse.

Enquirer. *Pray Doctor, what Book is that you were Reading in when I came in?*

Doctor. Why I'll tell you, this Book is the best Book in Astrology, in my mind that ever was Wrote. I engage a Man need never have any other Book by him and answer all Questions in Astrology, nay and Calculate Nativities too: And then for Palmestry, and Phisiognomy, here is your Cardiac, your Cephalick, your *Venus* Girdle, and I know not what: That you may, that you may see, of what Nature Man is of, as well as if you were in his Guts.

Enq. *That's a brave Book indeed! but it did not Write it self: Pray who was the Author, or does he conceal his Name?*

Doct. The Author was a Priest one *John Indagine*, a cunning Fellow I'll warrant you.

Enq. John Indagine! *I have read it, and repent the time lost in doing so, for I look'd upon it to be a Foolish, Idle thing, not worth the Perusal of any Man, much more an Artist.*

Doct. That's because you did not understand It; why I'll tell you a Hundred Men may Read it, and Read it again and never understand what is in it, unless they were born to be Astrologers.

Enq. *Well, but what think you of* Ptolomy, Hermes, Argol, Regiomentanus, Leovitius, Firmicus, Guido, Bonatus, *or such as these.*

Doct. Hang'em a parcel of Outlandish Dogs, they were all for the Theory, there was none of 'em had any Practise, and I tell you one years Practice is better then Reading all the

the Books in the World: When first I Studied this Art I was thinking of your musty, rusty, Fellows you speak of; and considering how I should do to get them in English: Who should come into Drink, (for between you and I, I then sold a Cup of Ale) but an old Astrologer that used to drink often at my House; and I up and told him that I was Studying Astrology, and ask'd him where I might get *Argol*, for I had heard much talk of him: So Sir, sayes he to me, you may go buy *Argol*, and others, but when you have done you will but lay out your Mony in vain: For I'll maintain it, there's more in *Lillyes* Instruction, then in them all.

Enq. *Instruction, Introduction you mean.*

Doct. Well Instruction, or Introduction, what's the difference, 'tis all one to me: But as I was telling you, I took the Old mans counsel, and bought the Book, and in a Months time, I could Erect a Figure and give Judgment too, as well as *Lilly* himself for as I told you before, and Mr. *Lilly* says so too, an Astrologer must be born so, not made one.

Enq. *But you could not learn so much Astronomy in that time, as to Calculate the true places of the Planets.*

Doct. No, nor I never intend to trouble my Brains about it, when I can buy an Ephemeris for six Pence.

Enq. *But what if there should be Mistakes in the Author or Printer?*

Doct. P'shaw, a handful of Minutes, or three or four Degrees, signifies nothing in a Horary Question.

Enq. *But in a Nativity much?*

Doct. I never use the old tedious Way, (though I understand it perchance as well as another does) of directing the *Helygiacals* to their *Promittors*, nor finding out the *Almuten*, *Alchochoden*, nor such like Trumpery in Nativities. I make no Speculums nor Fidle-fadles, not I.

Enq. *Why Doctor, you begin to Conjure now, I think.*

Doct. I can talk as big Words as the best of them: But as I was telling of you, my way in Nativities is by *Indagine*, where I need only look in what Sign the Sun was in when the party was Born; which is easily known, you know with-

without Mistakes, and then the Book of Knowledge is a good easie Book.

Enq. *Ay, and the* Dutch *Fortuneteller, that which the Gypsies use.*

Doct. Now you jest, you know that is only Chance.

Enq. *So is all the rest, without being certain of the Planets places.*

Doct. I don't know, I do as the rest: Why at your rate, there is not one in twenty that Practise, an able Astrologer; nay, of all my Acquaintance, and I know a great many Astrologers, there is not one that can Calculate the Planets places exactly.

Enq. *But I know some that can very well, although Mr.* Lilly *himself could not, if Sir* George Wharton *say true.*

Here his Servant coming up interrupted us, and told him, there was a Gentlewoman below desired to speak with him. Bid her walk up, says he to the Boy: And as for you, Sir, I desire you will be pleased to walk in the next Room till her Question be over, for Women, you know, are shy, and perhaps she may be unwilling to propound her Question before Witness. So into the next Room went I: Where by the help of a little Window in the Partition, I could see the Woman entring into the Doctor, and hear plainly their whole Discourse, which take as followeth.

Woman. *Sir, I am come to you about a small matter: My Husband, poor Man, is very sick, and I am afraid will hardly Live; and it hath been always my Prayers, that I might die before him. Now, Sir, I am sure you can tell which of us will die first?*

Doct. That's your Question, Whether you or your Husband will die first? Pray sit down, I'll step into my Study and

and Erect the Figure, and give Anſwer immediately.

Wom. *Thank you good Sir.*——— Here the Doctor withdrew into his Study, and after a little time, returns with his Scheme in his Hand.

Doct. You ſay, Miſtreſs, your Husband is ſick, of what Diſtemper is he ſick, I pray?

Wom. *Truly, Sir, I believe it is a kind of a Conſumption, and a Weakneſs in Nature, with a Pain in his Back: For I do proteſt to you, as I am an Honeſt Woman, I have had no* Good *from him as an Husband theſe two Months. And more, Sir, I am afraid he is a little Troubled in Mind, becauſe he often tells me of a Journey-man of ours, that Lodgeth in our Houſe; for my Husband is a Shoemaker.*

Doct. Stay, let me ſee, here's *Scorpio* aſcends, *Taurus* on the ſeventh, *Venus* in the ſixth Houſe: Yes, your Husband is ſick, and becauſe *Aries* is a Fiery Sign he is ſick of a Conſumption, and I believe he will die of it.

Wom. *Oh, dear Doctor, pray don't tell me ſo for a World.*

Doct. I muſt tell you what the Stars tell me: You would not have me tell a Lye, would you?

Wom. *Oh no! Let me have the truth on't, though it be never ſo bad: Muſt it then be ſo that I ſhall out-live my poor Husband?*

Doct. You need not doubt it.

Wom. *God's will be done: But can you tell me, Sir, whether ever I ſhall Marry again, or not?*

Doct. That's another Queſtion, now therefore if I anſwer it, I expect to be paid for two Queſtions.

Wom. *Look you, Sir, there is a Shilling for your firſt Queſtion; and truly, Sir, I have but Sixpence more about me, which I will give you with all my heart, for this laſt Queſtion, for I long to know. Pray don't ſtand with me now, for I ſhall come again and make it good to you, and ſhall ſend a great many of my Neighbours.*

Doct. Well, upon that condition I tell you, you ſhall Marry again.

Wom. *Oh dear, Why ſhall I ſo! But what kind of Man is he, pray Doctor? And what Trade? How Old may he be?*

Doct.

Doct. For his Features the man is likely enough, but a young man, and his Trade is ſomething about Leather, he Lives very nigh the place where you do now, if not in the ſame Houſe.

Wom. *Say no more, ſay no more, on my Conſcience you have hit the Mark. Indeed, Sir, you are a brave Man. I have been with many Aſtrologers in my time, and never could meet with any that Anſwered ſo pat to every thing as you do: But do you think we ſhall Live lovingly together, and which of us two ſhall die firſt?*

Doct. I can Anſwer you no more now, unleſs I erect a new Scheme, for the Face of the Heavens is altered ſince you came in.

Wom. *Your ſervant Sir, I'll trouble you no farther now, but I ſhall come again ſhortly: Fare you well, Sir, I ſhall blaze your Name abroad, for the beſt* Aſtrologer *in the three Kingdoms.*

Doct. Your ſervant Miſtreſs. And now the Doctor and I came together again.

Enquirer. *How did you find by your Figure, Doctor, that her Husband was ſick?*

Doctor, Becauſe ſhe told me ſo.

Enq. *But how did* Venus *in* Aries *ſignifie a Conſumption?*

Doct. D'ye think I was an Aſs, to tell her any other Diſeaſe, when ſhe told me before it was a Conſumption.

Enq. *Right, and ſo ſhe told you the Anſwer to her Sixpenny Queſtions, before ſhe ask'd it when ſhe ſpoke of the Journey-man Shoemaker. But this Figure was not Radical, and Aſtrologers ſay, 'tis dangerous to give an Anſwer when* Scorpio *aſcends.*

Doct. A Figure is always Radical to me, when I can get a Shilling by it: And as for *Scorpio*, they ſay 'tis found out now lately (ſince ſome of our beſt Aſtrologers have had that Sign aſcending at their Nativities) that *Scorpio* is no ſuch deceitful Sign as the Ancients accounted him; but rather the moſt propitious Sign in the Heavens.

Enq.

Enq. *Let me see the Figure a little.——— I wonder how you could have the Impudence to tell her, her Husband should die first, when according to the Rules of Astrology, here are all the Signs imaginable that she will die first.*

Doct. You are but a Novice in our Art, I perceive, to go by Rules of Astrology; I did so at first when I Practised, and then I could never get my Bread by it. Why, look you, suppose she does die first, she'll never tell I am a false Prophet after she's Dead surely: But if I had told her she should die first, and if it should not have happened so, her Husband being a sickly Man, then she would have done me a world of Mischief among the Neighbours, as now she may do me a great deal of Good: For most of those that come to us, if the Answer suit not their Fancy, go Home dissatisfied, calling us Rogues, Cheats, and telling their Neighbours, we can answer a Question no more than the Post, and then away to another, and another Astrologer, till they find one that pleases them: Then him they cry up, and fill his House full of Customers presently, though perhaps the first might speak truer than the last.

Enq. *You speak Cunningly, but not Honestly.* But just at this word, we heard a man coming up in hast, so I whipt to my old place again, and thus I heard him bespeak the Doctor.

Man. *Sir, I understand you are an able Man to find Stolen Goods, and I am exceedingly troubled about a Silver Tankard, that was Stolen out of our House Yesterday: Pray, Sir, tell me who Stole it, and where is the Thief, that I may go with a Constable and Nap him.*

Doct. What, does your Master keep an Ale-house, Friend?

Man. *A Victualling House, and please you.*

Doct. And who do you suspect?

Man. *We cannot tell, for we ne're miss it till Night.*

Doct. Stay here a while, Friend, I'll to my Study and do the best I can for you. Now, Friend, I have done my endeavour for you: And I tell you, it will be a great deal of

trouble to get this Tankard again; *Saturn* being Retrograde in the ſecond, afflicting the Lord of the ſecond with a Partile Square.

Man. *Alas, Sir, I am undone then, my Maſter ſays I ſhall pay for it, if it be not got again.*

Doct. Heark you, Friend, give me the Shilling for this Queſtion.

Man. *Here it is, good Doctor.*

Doct. Now I'll tell you, I have a Secret in Occult Philoſophy to afflict a Thief, that ne're a man in *England* that knows but my ſelf, ſo that the Thief ſhall either be Apprehended, or make ſome Diſcovery of it himſelf; or it ſhall come out ſo one way or other, that you ſhall have your Tankard again. But this will be a great Charge to me, and I cannot afford to do it under Ten Shillings in Hand, and Ten Shillings more when you have the Tankard.

Man. *I have not ſo much Money, but I'll give you Five Shillings now in hand, here take it, and Ten Shillings more when the Tankard is found.*

Doct. 'Tis indeed too little, but becauſe you are a Servant, I give you a Crown.

Man. *I thank you, Sir, pray do it as ſoon as you can. I live at the Sign of the*————

Doct. Farewel Friend, ne're fear, ſleep quiet. And now out came I again.

Enquirer. *Doctor, what have you done! Can any Mortal Man, or the Devil himſelf, perform what you have promiſed this Fellow?*

Doct. I don't know, nor don't care, I ſhall never trouble my Head no more about it.

Enq. *Do you think, that if the Tankard be never found, the Fellow won't come for his Five Shillings again?*

Doct. If he does, and make a great Noiſe about it, I'll give it him again, and there's an end of it; but it ſhall go hard if I get not then a Snip out of it, for I have Excuſes ready, that if it had not been his fault, the Tankard had been

been Discovered. But it often happens, that the Goods are found again one way or other, and then be sure I keep the Money in hand, if I do not get that promised. And then if the Goods be not found, half my Customers be so modest, they will not make any Disturbance about a Crown or Ten Shillings, but are glad if they get half their Money again, and go away Contented. So that I have two or three to one odds, when once I finger the Money, if I do not keep it.

Enq. *This is plain Knavery: And I wonder Justice can be so Blind, as not to find you out, and bring you to Condign Punishment.*

Doct. Who! Man I have been Plagued two or three times, and bound over to the Sessions, but I'll never Answer a Thievish Question again before Witness. But heark, I hear another coming up.

Enq. *Then I'll to my Apartment once more.* And being there, I saw it was a Young Woman, indifferently well Clothed; and after a low Courtesie, thus she Accosts Mr. Astrologer.

Maid. *Pray, Sir, are you the Gentleman that resolves Questions?*

Doct. Yes, Madam, at your Service.

Maid. *Then, Sir, I suppose you can tell what I came about.*

Doct. Yes, yes, very well, but that's nothing to the matter, you must propound it your self; for if there be no Quærent, then there is no Question, and then how can the Time be exactly taken, and if the Time be not taken true, another Sign will ascend, and the Figure will not be Radical, and then perhaps I may Err in my Judgment. Therefore you must propound your Question your self.

Maid. *Well, if I must, but I am cruelly asham'd.*

Doct. Asham'd, for what! Such men as We, never divulge a Secret. Do not the best young Gentry of both Sexes, take our Advice concerning their Loves; and I

know already, your Buſineſs is ſomething to that purpoſe.

Maid. *Indeed, I muſt confeſs it is ſo: But will the party Marry me, or no?*

Doct. How long is it ſince you ſaw him laſt?

Maid. *About a Month ago, and he uſed to come every Night, and pretend ſo much Love, that I thought he had been in Earneſt, but now I am afraid he is quite gone.*

Doct. I'll ſtep into my Study, and uſe the beſt of my Skill. (And upon his return, thus he goes on with her.) Fair Maid, I ſee he is off from you indeed, and without good Skill uſed, he'll hardly return.

Maid. *Don't you ſee by the Figure, Sir, none other coming nigh at hand?*

Doct. If they are not, I'll fetch them with a Vengeance, (that is to ſay) if you pleaſe. For as I may tell to you in private, Madam, I have a Secret, whereby I'll make that Perſon that you think you have loſt now, come back, and marry you, or ſome other as good as he, and that quickly too: You are not the firſt by Forty, that I have helped ſo. But I muſt be paid for my Pains.

Maid. *And a great deal of Reaſon, Sir, ſuch an Art cannot have too great a Reward. But can you indeed,* Doctor, *do as you promiſe?*

Doct. Can I! Nay, if you are come upon your Queſtions and Commands, Iha' done w'ye.

Maid. *Good Sir, be not angry: What will you pleaſe to have for doing this for me?*

Doct. Fair maid, you ſhall ſee, I will be very fair with you: Come again to morrow, when I have more Leiſure, and give me a Guinea in hand, and Bond for the Payment of Ten more upon your Day of marriage; and then if there be but one Single man in the Land, in a ſhort time he ſhould be your Husband.

Maid. *You make me Laugh, Sir: Well, I ſhall long for to Morrow, and then be ſure I'll come again. Here's for your*

Pains

Pains at present, Sir, and I thank you heartily. Pray, Sir, remember to be at Home to Morrow.

Doct. I shall be sure, *Madam*, farewel. These are my best Customers: A Pox on the Thievish Questions, there's nothing but Trouble and Vexation follows them. These Silly Souls now, if they are Chous'd of ne're so much, dare not tell on't.

Enq. *What did she give you*, Doctor?

Doct. But Half a Crown now: But I dare say, she'll hardly sleep till she's here again with her Guinea, and then for the Bond, and then for the Husband.

Enq. *Thou art one of the greatest Cheats in Nature: What Secret have you to get this Wench a Husband?*

Doct. This, I assure you, is my Secret of Secrets, and therefore if I tell it you, you must be sure never to Reveal it. When this Wench comes again to morrow, I'll know of her where she Lives, where her former Sweet-heart Lives, what her Parents are, what her Portion is, *&c.* Then take her Guinea, and Bond, and discharge her, Ordering her to call upon me once or twice a Week, to tell me how matters go forward: And if in a Twelve months time she happen to be married, I will make her certainly believe I got her her Husband by my Art; and she'll no doubt get me the money by Hook or Crook, for fear it should come to her Husband's ear. But I must employ my Wits about it too, as thus, To night, or to morrow, or once a Week at least, comes one young Superstitious Fool, or other, to me, to know which is the best way for him to go seek a Wife, and what kind of Woman? Then I answer like an Oracle; You must go upon such a Point of the Compass, till you come to such a Place, or Street, and there nigh such a Sign lives a Gentlewoman, that if it be not your Fault, the Stars say, shall be your Wife. Then if he likes her, I'll prove Broker on both sides, and get money of him too: But if he likes her not, yet ten to one but that he marries her,

her, because he thinks, 'tis his Fortune, and that it cannot be avoided.

Enq. *For shame,* Doctor, *leave off these Abominable Tricks, and betake your self to some Honest Employment.*

Doct. Yes, and Starve in it, shall I?

Enq. *I will stay no longer with you, for fear the Devil should come for you, and do me a Mischief too, finding of me in your Company. So farewel, and Live better.*

OF

OF THE DEPTH OF THE SEA.

IT is hardly worth mentioning, the groundleſs Opinion ſome men hold, that in ſome places there is no bottom to the Sea, but all Water, from the very Superficies, to the Center of the Globe. For if they conſider, me-thinks, they cannot chuſe but acknowledge, that every Stone, or other Ponderous matter caſt out of Ships in ſuch places, muſt neceſſarily ſink (if not obſtructed) to the Center, and there reſting immoveable, would long ſince have made a bottom, if there had been none in the Creation. There are Seamen that are generally of this Conceit, who prove it no better then by two or three places wreſted from the Holy Scriptures, and by their own ineffectual Trials; which I ſhall not go about to anſwer, but

but only tell them a Way, by which the next time they go to Sea, they may (if they pleaſe) Convince themſelves, if I am not miſtaken; and this is it. Joyn a piece of Wood to a Stone that is weighty enough to ſink the Wood ſwiftly, after ſuch a manner, that as ſoon as ever the Stone toucheth the bottom, they may by that Concuſſion be parted, and the Wood aſcend again to the top of the Water. Then letting them down in a Calm Day, when the Ship hath little or no Drift, watch the coming up of the Wood; which you may take again into your Ship, by your Boat. Or otherwiſe (if you pleaſe) by keeping an exact Account of the time the Wood was under Water, you may give a good gueſs at the Depth. The benefit that might ariſe from ſuch an Experiment, might perhaps in time, prove greater than the Pleaſure of it. For though it might not certainly by your Depth determine your Longitude, yet it would give you notice of your approach to the Shore, long before the Lead Line would ſerve your turn, and far eaſier too. It might alſo diſcover many Fiſhing Banks, not yet found out; and many more Benefits might ariſe from ſuch a pleaſant Experiment. You will Object, perhaps, That it is a very difficult matter, to make the Wood and Stone hold together all the way down, and part upon the touch of the Ground. I anſwer, No more difficult, than for a Mouſe-Trap, or the Cock of a Gun, or any ſuch ſmall Engine, to go down with the touch of a Finger. I was juſt about ſetting down here Two or Three Figures, as they came into my Head; but I think it, on ſecond Thoughts, needleſs: Becauſe it is ſuch an eaſie matter, that every one will be contriving a Gimcrack in his Head, as he is reading this, and, perhaps, the worſt of other mens, may be better than the beſt of mine, ſo I leave every one to his own Fancy. But although it be granted (you'll ſay) that there is Ground before you come to the Center of the Earth, yet who knows how nigh the Center it may be? And we may wait a long time for a piece of Wood

Wood to ſink Three Thouſand miles or more, and come up again. I anſwer, I am ignorant indeed, how long the Wood would be ſinking, and riſing again; that muſt be often tried before in known Depths, and ſo work by Proportion for finding the unknown, and though perhaps the Stone may ſink the ſwifter, the nigher it comes to its Center: Yet if the ſame weight, and ſhape of Stone and Wood be always uſed, although there may be a ſmall miſtake in the Depth, yet if it be always found the ſame, that Error will prejudice no man. But to come nigher an Anſwer, how deep the Sea may be, I cannot gueſs, nor no man elſe; but it looks as reaſonable to me to judge it rather to be not above Four or Five miles in the deepeſt place, than Two or Three Thouſand. There is no certain way to know the truth, without Sounding it: But without offence, let me offer this uncertainty to you. From *Scilly* to *Uſhant* is Thirty Leagues, or rather from *Scilly* to *Ireland*, it is Thirty Seven Leagues, or thereabouts, and the deepeſt Water between but Sixty Fathoms: Now admit from the Coaſt of *Spain* to *Virginia*, to be a Thouſand Leagues, according to proportion, the deepeſt place between ſhould be but One Thouſand Six Hundred and Twenty Fathoms, not quite Two miles. Again, from *Caboverd* to the *Iſlands*, (bearing that name) is about One Hundred and Five Leagues, and in the very middle is a ſhallow Bank, whereon the *Spaniards*, and *Portugueſes*, go Yearly a Fiſhing. As much, or more, might be ſaid of the Bank of *New-Found-Land*, the *Dogger-Bank*, and others in the *Eaſt-Indies*. But now, if you Laugh at me for this way of Gueſſing, truly I have nothing to ſay, but I may deſerve it.

The laſt Objection that I can think on, is the Drift of the Ship, and this, indeed, is the hardeſt to Anſwer: But at the worſt, it may be uſeful in Calms, which often happen; and in moderate Gales of Wind, when the Boat may be kept out to Windward, watching the riſing of the Wood, but without the Boat, a white piece of Wood at

its firſt bobbing out of the Water, I judge may be diſcerned from the Ship at leaſt half a mile. And now after all this, if you do not like it, 'tis but a Whim and ſo I leave it.

OF TOBACCO.

IT is, me thinks, very Strange, that almoſt all the whole World, without Learning it of one another, ſhould pitch upon the Smoaking of this Herb, as if it were abſolutely as neceſſary to Mankind, as Meat and Drink. When the *Portugals* firſt Coaſted *Africa*, all along to the Cape of *Good-Hope*, they found them Smoaking; when they had doubled the *Cape*, and proceeded on to the fartheſt *Indies*, they found the Inhabitants ſtill Smoaking. When the *Spaniards* diſcovered *America*, they found the ſame there, and we of late find the ſame throughout all the Northern Parts of *America*. And ſince the Cuſtom hath been brought into theſe parts of *Europe*, I think we have not been behind hand with any of them; except it were in the uſing of Bows and Arrows, I know not any one thing (but what was abſolutely neceſſary) that all Mankind ſo generally agreed in. The *Ruſſians* are Prohibited from it upon pain of Death, or extraordinary Fines at leaſt;

leaſt; and yet as I have heard ſome ſay, that have lived among them, Such as cannot plead a Bewitching Cuſtom to it, will venture their Lives and Eſtates for a Pipe of Tobacco. Grapes grow neglected in many Parts of the World, where this Tobacco is greedily Cut up and Smoaked. It cannot be therefore for Intoxicating the Brain, to make Men forget the Cares and Miſeries of this Life, that it is ſo generally taken; for Wine would be far better. Beſides, the Wiſe, the Rich, need not ſuch poor Remedies; and we find when Men come to Smoak much, it doth not at all offend the Brain then, and then 'tis they moſt deſire it. Some men Chew it, ſome thruſt it up their Noſes, ſome give a Pipe a piece to their Children in the morning for their Breakfaſt. And many a man, when he has but a Penny in the World, and wants Bread, buys a Pennyworth of Tobacco in its ſtead. The Miſer, that wiſhes men could live without Eating and Drinking, liberally lays out his Money for Tobacco, and carries it about him in a little Box, that will not hold above four Pipes, for fear any Body ſhould beg a Pipeful of him.

What ſhould I ſay any more for? 'Tis well known how all manner of People deſire it. The Judge, the Prieſt, the Philoſopher, the Fool, the Rich, the Poor, the Wiſeſt of Men, and maddeſt in *Bethlehem*, though they differ much in moſt things elſe, yet all agree in Smoaking. I do not all this while ſpeak againſt the Uſe of it, for I am ſenſible, it is in ſome things Praiſe-worthy; as that it makes a good Medicine, it helps Sore Eyes, it Condenſeth the Spirits, it procures Sleep, it Imploys many Thouſands in Planting of it, in bringing it Home, and making it fit for the Pipe here at Home: But I ask the Natural Reaſon, Why men generally throughout the whole World, without Converſing with one another, betook themſelves to this Plant? and not as well to any other of as great Virtues?

OF EUROPES Being too Full of PEOPLE.

THE Absurdity I presume would not be very great, if a Man should say, That *Europe* is fuller of People than the Lands are well able to maintain, considering the Conveniencies of making mens Lives more Pleasant some men ought to have, others will have, and almost all do their Endeavour to obtain: And this Assertion may not prove Ridiculous, if we observe these following things.

First, The prudent Custom they have in our Neighbouring Nations, to keep Mankind from Multiplying too much, or at the best to keep some Families from growing too Numerous; lest all alike fall into Poverty. In sending the Younger Sons, or Brothers, to the Wars, where either they Die honourably, in the Defence of their Prince and Country; or by their Valour get Estates, and the Favour of their Prince, whereby they either Dignifie and Enrich the Family they came from, or Erect a new one

one of their own, ſometimes ſurpaſſing their Progenitors. And their Daughters, or Siſters, to the Nunneries, What hurt can be in that, if not forc'd? (As I cannot conceive many, if any, are ſo ſerved,) There they have the benefit of early Devoting themſelves to their Maker, void of the Karping Cares, and Troubles, without their Walls; being as it were already in the Borders of Heaven, ſinging Praiſes to their Maker with their whole Heart, Strength, and undiſturbed Soul; like *Mary*, having choſen the better part. Alas! ſhould theſe young Lads and Girls, have multiplied with Cook-wenches and Coach-men, their numerous Iſſue in a Hundred Years time, would have Eat up the very Name of the Family.

Another thing (howe're neglected here in *England*) is the keeping *Lent*. It cannot be otherwiſe: But it was a wiſe Inſtitution, both for the Soul, (but that being beyond my Sphear, I leave it to the Tribe of *Levy*, from whom I am to fetch my Duty, not my Whimſies) as well as for the Body. 'Tis kept in the Spring of the Year, when the Blood Ferments, and Fleſh is then Unwholeſom; and abſtemious Diet on Pulſe, Fruits, Herbs, and Fiſh, is a great deal better at that time for the Health of man: And being kept at the ſame time, when almoſt all Creatures on which we feed, are Breeding; Forty Days abſtinence at that time, cannot chuſe but make Fleſh abundantly more plenty all the Year after. But paſſing by the Increaſe of Navigation, the breeding able hardy Seamen, the vaſt Trade, and many other Commodities, that we in *England* enjoy, by our Neighbours keeping *Lent*, I only offer: That if *Lent* were not kept in *Spain*, and *Italy*, the Fleſh that is bred there, would but poorly feed the Inhabitants.

A third thing that we may obſerve, is, How many miſerable People lie up and down, Begging and Starving; and I am not ſo uncharitable to think, that all do it out of Idleneſs, ſome there are, no doubt on't, that would Work,

Work, and cannot get it. And although His Sacred Majeſtie's Dominions of *Great Brittain*, be the moſt plentifully ſtored with Proviſions, and all other things, that Nature requires for Human Subſiſtence, of any Country in *Europe*, yet even in this Garden of *Eden*, we find many poor and miſerable People: And to avoid the being called, thought, or eſteemed ſo, what a ſtrong Buſle is there made? The men Steal, and are Hanged; all for the ſake of Bread and Bear. The Women walk the Streets in the dark Evenings, proſtituting their Bodies and Souls to men and Devils, all for Meat and Drink, Money to pay the Doctor, and an old Crape Gown.

Again, We may obſerve how Frugality is cried up, as a Virtue equal to Temperance, and ſo exactly practiſed in Foreign parts; that a full fed Engliſhman when he Travels, can hardly difference it from Penury.

All theſe things conſidered, it ſeems Rational to me, that moſt parts of *Europe* are too full of People. Leſs wiſe we are then Bees, who when they find their Hive too full, ſwarm, and go look out a new Habitation. What Brave, Spacious, and Fertile Countries has his Majeſty in *America!* What a Beautiful Maiden Land, adorned with Gold (I ſpeak of all *America* in general) Silver, Pearl, and Pretious Stones, is there! wiſhing to be enjoyed by the honeſt Engliſh Husbandman. How kindly hath ſhe entertained ſuch as have already gone over to Court her, correcting their Vices, which grew here of neceſſity, by her plenty.

The ſame Gracious King Protects her, and her Inhabitants: There are the ſame Laws, Religions, Government, every thing as it is here, except Plenty inſtead of cruel Want.

Not one Beggar is to be found in all *Virginia*, *Maryland*, *New-York*, *New-England*, nor any of the Neighbouring Plantations. Think you not then that Poverty, and the evil Conſequences of it, comes not upon Men as well by a Countries being Overſtock'd, as by Luxury, Idleneſs, *&c.* I conclude it is by all three, and more ways.

Some

Some perhaps will say, *Europe* was as full of People Five Hundred Years ago, as it is now. I grant it. And when a Land is full, the Increase after that, must needs run over into other Countries, or Wars, Plagues, or Famines, in their own.

CONCERNING THE
PRECISE TIME
Of Keeping the
SABBATH.

THE time when the *Jews* began and ended their Sabbath, and when I mean at what time of the Day the Primitive Christians their Lord's Day, is well known unto Divines; and I shall not be so bold to meddle with. My design is only a little to touch on the strange Humours of such, who begin their Sabbath on *Saturday* Night at Sunset, and end it *Sunday* Night Sunset. Surely the Will of God is, that we should set apart the Seventh part of our Time for his Honour, and Worship; and not Tithe Mint and Rue, in so exactly nicking the time. For if so, why do not these men Consult some Mathematician to know exactly what time of their Day the Sun sets in *Jerusalem*, and they'll find it near Eight Hours before it does in *New-England*: So that they are at Work or Play, while their Friends in *Jerasalem* (if they have any there) are at Prayers for them. The same may be said of *England*, or any

any other Place. But methinks, I hear Parſon *S.*—— calling me Fool, and telling me that the Lord's Day muſt begin when the Sun ſets to us, whereever we be; for although the Commandment was given at Mount *Sinai*, yet the People were to keep it at *Jeruſalem*, and take that preſent Sun-ſet for the beginning of the Sabbath, not that of Mount *Sinai*. Well Parſon *S.*—— if it be ſo, I will not ſtand with you for Cloudy Days, the Interpoſition of Hills between us, and our Horizon, nor ſuch Trifles. But what ſhall I do when I am at Sea, in Latitude of 65 or 70 Degrees in the Summer time, when the Sun ſets not at all? Or what ſhall the *Ruſſians*, the *Laplanders*, the *Iſlanders*, and many other Chriſtians in the World, that have ſome months in the Year all Day? Or what ſhall the Inhabitants under either Pole (if any there) where they have Six months Day, and Six months Night? Their Sabbath will come but once in ſeven Years, for when it comes, it will be a long one.

F I N I S.